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Letter dated 12 December 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of the Security Council which are members of the European Union: France, Italy, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and my own country, Belgium.

Following the briefing by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo, on 5 December 2007, I have the honour to enclose a copy of the Conclusions on the Sudan/Chad which were adopted by the Council of the European Union (General Affairs and External Relations) on 10 December 2007 (see annex).

These Conclusions state, inter alia, the following:

> In line with Security Council resolution 1593 (2005) the Council calls on the Government of the Sudan to cooperate unconditionally with the International Criminal Court and to surrender the two individuals for whom the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants on 27 April 2007 in connection with alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its enclosure as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Johan **Verbeke**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 12 December 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Sudan/Chad: Council conclusions

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council reaffirms its strong support for the African Union's and the United Nations ongoing efforts to solving the conflict in Darfur and reiterates its firmly held view that a lasting and inclusive peace will be best secured through a comprehensive and regional approach to the conflict.

2. The Council is deeply concerned about the prospects for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) following the briefing provided to the Security Council by Under-Secretary-General Jean-Marie Guéhenno on 27 November 2007.

3. The Council draws attention to the lack of cooperation by the Government of the Sudan concerning the deployment of an effective force. The Council underlines that the UNAMID mission is operating under a Security Council resolution and that any obstruction by the Government of the Sudan or by other parties will be in direct opposition to the will of the Security Council. The Council reiterates its readiness to consider further measures notably in the United Nations framework, against any party that obstructs a prompt deployment of an effective force.

4. The Council recognizes the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as the bedrock of long-term stability and the way forward for democracy in the Sudan and urges both the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to resolve points of contention in implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as soon as possible, notably the demarcation of the Abyei border and the redeployment of troops.

5. The Council welcomes the start of the political talks in Sirte, Libya, on 27 October, as the beginning of a process to ensure lasting peace in Darfur. The Council reiterates its support for the mediation under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union, welcomes the involvement of civil society, and urges rebel movements to continue their efforts to unify further and prepare for the start of negotiations. The Council reconfirms its readiness to provide all possible support to the talks and welcomes the efforts made by member States, the European Commission and the European Union Special Representative for the Sudan, including through their various contributions to the African Union/United Nations trust fund established for that purpose. The Council stresses that the talks must be underpinned by improved security, in particular through an early commitment by all parties to a verifiable cessation of hostilities. The Council recalls its position that any party failing to engage constructively in the peace process is to be considered as an obstacle to peace and that it will promote appropriate further measures against it, notably in the Union Nations framework, in line with Security Council resolution 1591 (2005).

6. The Council remains deeply concerned about the humanitarian crisis in the region and notably in Darfur and condemns the increasing levels of violence, in particular against humanitarian workers. The Council will continue to monitor these developments very closely. The Council urges the Government of the Sudan to respect their commitments under the Joint Comminiqué and to review issues of concern through established channels (for example the High-Level Committee). As part of this, the Government of the Sudan should issue an early announcement on the extension of the moratorium on humanitarian access. The Council confirms its readiness to consider further measures, notably in the United Nations framework, against any party that undermines peace and security in Darfur or the region through committing acts of violence, especially against any party that obstructs humanitarian access.

7. In line with Security Council resolution 1593 (2005) the Council calls on the Government of the Sudan to cooperate unconditionally with the International Criminal Court and to surrender the two individuals for whom the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants on 27 April 2007 in connection with alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur.

8. The Council deplores the recent attacks by Chadian rebel groups operating partly from Darfur and expresses its serious concerns regarding the renewed military clashes between rebel groups and Chadian armed forces in eastern Chad. It urges Chad, in cooperation with the Sudan and Libya, to create the necessary conditions for a lasting political solution in implementation of the Sirte peace accord. The Council further urges the Governments of the Sudan and Chad to fulfil their obligations under the Tripoli and Sirte agreements, notably to put an end to support for armed movements destabilizing the region. It recalls in particular the responsibility of the Government of the Sudan to prevent armed groups from crossing the borders into Chad.

9. The Council underlines its full commitment to contribute to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1778 (2007) which authorizes the deployment in Chad and the Central African Republic of a multidimensional presence including the European Union providing the military element of it. In the light of recent tensions in the border region of Chad and the Sudan, it reiterates the importance of addressing the conflict in Darfur within a comprehensive and regional approach. In this context, the deployment of EUFOR Chad/Central African Republic and related European Community actions, together with the United Nations mission, MINURCAT, remains crucial.

10. The planning of the operation is taking place in full coordination with the United Nations and in consultation with African partners, and its deployment has been welcomed by the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic. The deployment of EUFOR Chad/Central African Republic is to actively work for the improvement of the security situation in eastern Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic, as well as contributing to ensure the security and freedom to operate MINURCAT.

Following its decision in October 2007 to conduct a one-year bridging military operation in eastern Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic, which was reconfirmed in November 2007, the Council takes note of the state of preparations for launching the operation. The Council is looking forward to finalizing soon the current process of force generation and making all necessary resources available in order to conduct this operation.